

REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register:	06 April 1998
Name of applicant/court:	Comptroller of Customs
Applicant to the Labelling Body:	Not Applicable
Title of Publication:	Growing Wild Mushrooms
Other Known Titles:	Not Stated
Director:	Not Applicable
Producer:	Not Applicable
Publisher:	Homestead Book Company
Author:	Bob Harris
Format:	Book
Country of Origin:	USA
Language:	English

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Components of film originally examined: Not Applicable.

Feature:	Running time:
Trailers:	Running time:
	Total Running time:

Excision/Alteration: Not Applicable.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

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Classification Decision:

Unrestricted.

Display Conditions:

Not Applicable.

Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on: Not Applicable.

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The book entitled *Growing Wild Mushrooms* is classified as:
Unrestricted.

The main issue in classifying this book is the extent to which it encourages criminal activity. The book is primarily a guide to the cultivation of wild mushrooms. However, it also contains information that will help the reader to identify particular species of mushrooms, with one chapter dealing exclusively with the identification of hallucinogenic ("psilocybin") mushrooms. The cultivation and consumption of these mushroom types is listed as an offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975.

The publication is considered to advance criminal activity to a limited extent. It does this by providing information that may help a reader to identify a prohibited plant, and placing this information in the context of a detailed growing guide, that may enable the reader to cultivate this plant.

However, the extent to which the publication advances criminal activity is minimal. The amount of coverage given to hallucinogenic mushrooms is less than one-sixth of the book's contents. This information is limited to technical and botanical data, interspersed with the occasional personal anecdote. The tone throughout is matter-of-fact, with the author in no way actively encouraging the collection or cultivation of the fungi. There is no discussion of any matters relating to the use of the fungi as a hallucinogenic drug.

The publication has legitimate intent as a guide to the cultivation of mushrooms, and the extent to which it advances criminal activity is limited. The Classification Office therefore considers that the availability of the publication is not likely to cause injury to the public good.

The right to freedom of information contained in s14 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 has been considered and upheld in the classification of this publication.

OFLC Ref: 9800093